

# ALLEGANY COUNTY

## Records

Allegheny County has preserved almost the entire body of its archives. This is especially remarkable because the county has had three courthouses, and the records have been kept elsewhere during fairly extended periods—before the first courthouse was built and while the later ones were building.

The fire of January 5, 1893 spared the vaults of both the Clerk of the Court and the Register of Wills. Such losses as occurred were apparently of records kept in the outer offices. An inventory made shortly after the fire listed the following as missing: Marriage Records, 1791-1847; List of Attorneys, 1791-1886; unrecorded Naturalization Papers, September 1, 1892-January 4, 1893; part of the Minutes of the Circuit Court for 1892; some original deeds recorded in Land Records, Volume 72, and some original mortgages recorded in Volume 10 of Mortgage Records.<sup>1</sup>

These burned records were reconstituted with the exception of the Minutes, the Naturalization Papers and the List of Attorneys. The Marriage Records are, however, not precisely records: they were taken from copies of the original books which had been printed in the local newspapers some years before the fire. County officers in 1893 thought of records as volumes and papers found in the custody of the Clerks of the Court and the Registers of Wills. None of the other records were protected, but many were saved. No doubt the obvious losses in the administrative branch of government were also casualties of the fire.

Of losses prior to the fire there is little evidence; however we know that Scharf, writing in the 1870's, noted that the Minutes of the Proceedings of Court, 1791-1798, were not in the Clerk's office at that time.<sup>2</sup> They are still missing.

## Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1791--. Beginning in 1883, mortgages were recorded separately. Most volumes indexed. C.H., 1791--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1791-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1791--. Cott Family. Includes mortgages until 1883. C.H., 1791--. H.R., 1791-1963, microfilm.

INDEX TO MORTGAGES IN DEED BOOKS, 1791-1883. Cott Key. C.H.

INDEX TO MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS RECORDED IN DEED BOOKS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1905, 1791-1905. Cott Key. Covers chattel mortgages, bills of sale, contracts, leases, assignments, commission and bonds in Land Records. C.H.

MORTGAGE RECORDS (CHATTEL AND MORTGAGE RECORDS), 1883--. Also includes Chattel Records, 1883-1953. C.H., 1883--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

<sup>1</sup> *Inventory of the County Archives of Maryland, No. 1, Allegheny County*, Baltimore, The Historical Records Survey, 1937, p. 16. The present writer was editor of the HRS volume cited above, but he cannot remember where he found this list. The library of printed books was a total loss; the State Librarian was

ordered to furnish new sets of *Maryland Reports, Acts of Assembly, etc.* (Joint Resolution No. 10, Acts of 1894).

<sup>2</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, Vol. II, p. 1,349, fn. 3.